PHANGAZINE

Here at Phangazine, we feel like we've been writing intro blurbs for a whole year. Oh wait, that's because we have! Someone get the birthday candles ready, as Phangazine is officially one year old!

From the beginning, Phangazine has aimed to be a place for collective appreciation within one of the most influential and recognizable communities in all of modern fandom culture. We started with a tweet of interest from Abby (@cryptiddnp), which then spawned a tweet of action from Coby (@onfjre), which turned into a Twitter groupchat, a Discord server, a website, social media accounts, a small team of dedicated creatives, and then eventually our 34-page first issue on March 28, 2024!

The project was a hit, sparking an incredible amount of creativity and passion within the fandom. Since then, our contributors and readers have changed us as much as we have changed them. We have collected several regular submitters (we cannot do it without you guys!), as well as some legendary artists in the space to fill our pages with their incredible talent!

This issue will be a love letter to the microcosm of creativity we have fostered with this project, filled with pieces about Phangazine's impact, the community, and of course, Dan and Phil!

Phangazine has three versions: English, Spanish, and English audiobook, and all are on our website now! Did you notice that we also created an audience feedback form? Do you want to see something included in our zine? Do you have questions about our process or submissions? Do you just want to privately sing our praises or tell us what we're doing wrong? Please fill out the form on our website and social media, and questions will be answered on Twitter and Tumblr (@phangazine) for everyone to see!

The staff is incredibly thankful for every (past or present) reader or contributor for your support, and always massive thank yous to all the artists, writers, graphic designers, and translators that make every issue you read possible! If this celebratory installment gets your creative Dan and Phil juices flowing, see how you can submit for our summer issue in our finishing thoughts at the end of the issue!

We are beyond proud and excited to bring you our fifth, anniversary issue of the Phangazine!

With all our love and appreciation,

The Phangazine Staff

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Cover Art
Sage (@leavesthedirt on Tumblr)

Introduction 1

Table of Contents 2

Art
Axel (@blueartichokee) 3

Prose - Very Serious Drabbles
Coby (@onfire) 4

Prose - "An Excerpt from 'rocks wishing to be clouds'"
Adonis (@saultransman) 5

Phastrology 6

Art
Inski (@inskabil) 7

Ins and Outs 8

Some Phandom Survey Results
Coby (@onfire) and Adonis (@saultransman) 9-11

Sound Barrier 12

Advertisement for Tab's Tats and Tittles 13

"Phistory Lesson! A glimpse into the archives..."
Sol (@K1CKTHEPJ) 14

Art
Zoe (@alittlestarsick) 15

Internet Support Group 16

"Reflections of a Phangazine Editor-in-Chief"
Adonis (@saultransman), Art: Kay (@planetarykay) 17

Games 18

Crafty Corner
Mavi (@slitsfordan) 19

Phannie Personal: Making This House a Home
Coby (@onfire), Adonis (@saultransman), & more! 20-23

Comics Ad 24

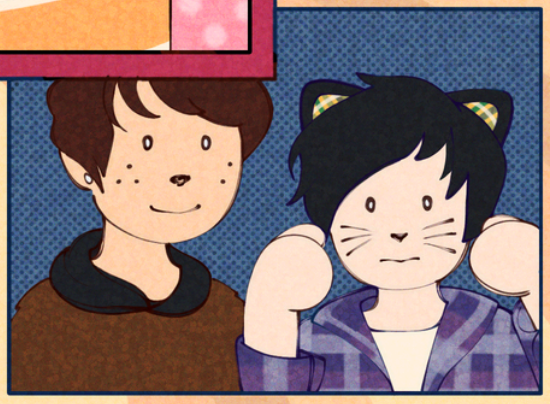
Art
Roo (@wonderstrucktv on Tumblr) 25

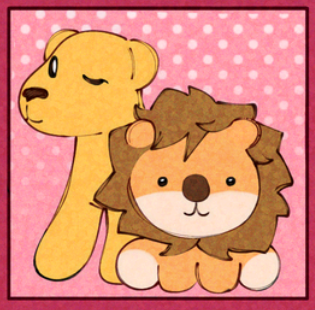
"Growth as Acceptance"
Maddie (@arislunchdate) 26

Art
Ice (@b1uebeane) 27

Finishing Thoughts 28

Spring 2025





Very Serious Drabble

by Coby (@onfjre)

It was that trip to Paddywick's Emporium that really made it real.

Dil was lodged, squarely, in a hurricane of doctors and nurses, OBGYNs and doulas, concerned in-laws, and disgusted coworkers, and somehow it was all Tabs' fault. It started when their first baby was born. Dil remembered holding his tiny body, looking into his sweet, watery eyes. The want–no, need to bear his own surged through his body like lightning then and no amount of reason would remedy it. And Tab, instead of reminding him of the impracticality, fully embraced this. Have you heard of Sixam? Tab had asked, grabbing Dil's hands with delight. Not to tinfoil hat... but it's an alien planet, and they say the males bear their young. Further Google searches of Sixam proved that sightings had occurred nearby and yet Dil still wasn't convinced. At that point, he was adjusting his five year pin on his lab coat and knew the career didn't encourage conspiracy. Yet a spark, like flint and steel from the Minecraft movie, ignited and blazed right through him, as if the fire itself roared through his mouth and enabled him to say "let's try it."

So they went to Paddywick's, if not just to browse through the seemingly infinite collection of baby clothes—a glimpse into a potential future.

Dil's fingers traced the seam of a tiny beanie, every stitch sewing another thread of doubt in his mind. The dream was too unattainable. Hours of research in the lab proved that. His only hope was meeting a pollination technician, but his chances of finding them in his small town were slim to none.

Dil wiped away an arrant teardrop. Barely audible over the droning fluorescent lights, his wife asked, "Are you okay?"

"I just need to get out of here."

He stumbled back, room spinning, half-aware of surroundings muddied through tears, and nearly made it to the exit if not for the person directly crossing his path.

They collided in a jagged heap.

"I'm so sorry!" Dil blurted after slamming into them at Mach Five speed.

"Nooboo," the woman replied.

It was then that Dil noticed how peculiarly dressed and outrageously tall she was. Was she wearing toesocks? In a hot dog costume? And...that word...nooboo....wasn't that Sixamish? He watched this stranger's eerie eyes—did those pupils just duplicate?---fixate on the baby onesie still fastened to his hand.

"I can help you with that," she said.

An Excerpt from ‘rocks wishing to be clouds’
By Adonis (@saultransman)

dan insisted that their next meeting be in phil's office.

a student that had stopped by for help had pointed him out to phil as he stood awkwardly in the hall of the greater forensics and psychology building.

"you can come in, dan," phil called from his desk.

"sorry," he muttered, stepping quickly into the room and closing the door behind him with his foot. both of his hands clutched his briefcase in front of him and phil could only take in the view, the oxymoron of a shy lawyer.

"i hope while we're working together i can help you break that apologetic habit." phil used his feet to push him and his chair over next to dan's on the other side of his desk.

"sorry," dan replied without thinking, sitting down. phil snorted. *you're funny. i think you're funny.*

dan smiled back at him, a soft pressing-together of his lips that read like amused and lighthearted defeat. "i swear i don't even notice it. i guess you'll just have to get used to it until i can unlearn it." *i'll be funny, only if you want me to be.*

"i'll just point it out whenever you do it." phil moved a few things on his desk to accommodate whatever dan was pulling out of his briefcase. "so how many things do you have?"

"voicemails? three. one to the victim's mum, one to the victim's sister, and one to her friend." his laptop slid in front of them and phil had the instinct to ask why dan's hands flitted to hide the screen from phil's vision before he realized that he had left it open on the device's files. "the victim's friend, i mean. not the sister's friend. wouldn't make much sense for the kidnapper to leave a call for the sister's friend. unless he was trying to enact some mastermind plan, i guess. like, make the family think it's someone the sister knows to throw them off? like a hannibal lecter plan or something."

dan stopped moving to stare at phil. *am i rambling?*

"yeah," phil replied on instinct. *i mean, no, you're not rambling. but yeah, i get it.* "that would be a good idea, actually. he totally could have gotten away, at least for a little bit longer. as long as no one could recognize his voice."

"then thank god we have you." *thank god i have you.*

PHASTROLOGY

horoscopes for your birth month!

January

Spend money

February

You will encounter a small rabbit on your jog to work today. Do not interact with it. Just keep running.

March

Make a country music playlist

April

Have you ever felt lowkey French? You have an innate affinity for the language. Pick it up!

May

Leap into the air and rejoice, for you are smiled upon by the angels!!!!!!!!!! Unless you're a Gemini. Then it's over i fear..

June

Vermillion is your color!

July

Swimming is out. Walking on water is in.

August

in forty years you will look back on your life now and be proud of how far you've come.

September

Relinquish your haphazard control on your life and allow yourself to go with the flow.

October

Ok.

November

A pertinacious giraffe weevil has a message for you

December

Stop denying it. You are a theater kid! Embrace your love for the stage and put Hamilton on your Spotify Wrapped.

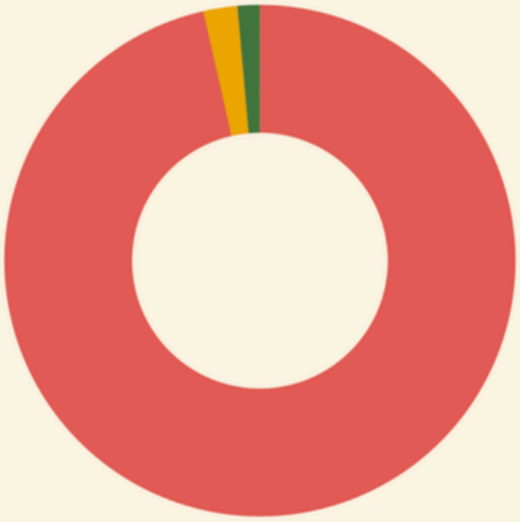
designed by Sol @kickthepj

INS AND OUTS
Becky and Jessica's guide to
FASHION
the bow is the ultimate accessory!
i always wear one!
hair...permed
idk it just falls into place like this haha
liar...
glasses (for seeing)
studs!
hoodie for comfort!
sequins of course!
a little shawl always elevates a look!
bracelets i made myself
cargo shorts so i can put large bottles of soda in there and also my keys
the frillier... the better!
becky
JESSICA
ugly bandaids. i skateboard btw
not even!

SOME PHANDOM SURVEY RESULTS

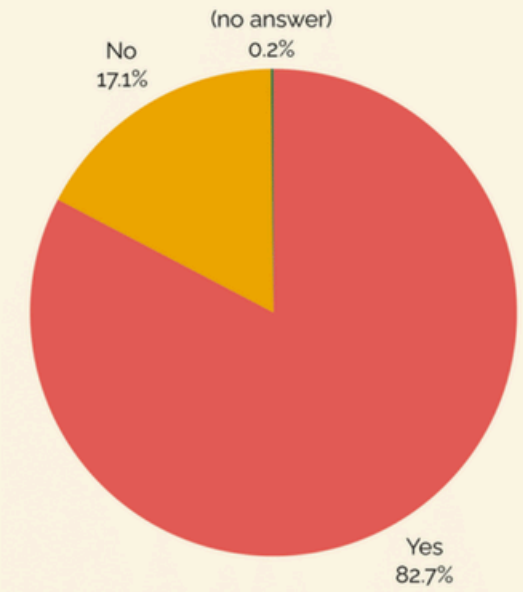
Coby (@onfjre) and Adonis (@saultransman)

In 2024, Coby conceptualized and ran a small study focusing on cataloguing some patterns of convergence and interpersonal connections (as well as disagreement and difference) within Phandom spaces on various social media platforms. The study collected a total of 1,068 responses from eight different social media platforms, with participants ranging from new to the Phandom to having been involved for over five years. Soon after, I (Adonis) offered to join in to help analyze and organize the data into a comprehensive report. That report is still a work-in-progress, but this section will offer a few of our graphs regarding demographics and other simple multiple-choice answers that were part of the survey. Enjoy!



Would you consider yourself to be part of the Dan and Phil *fandom*?

- Yes (96.4%)
- No (2.2%)
- Only as a lurker (1.4%)

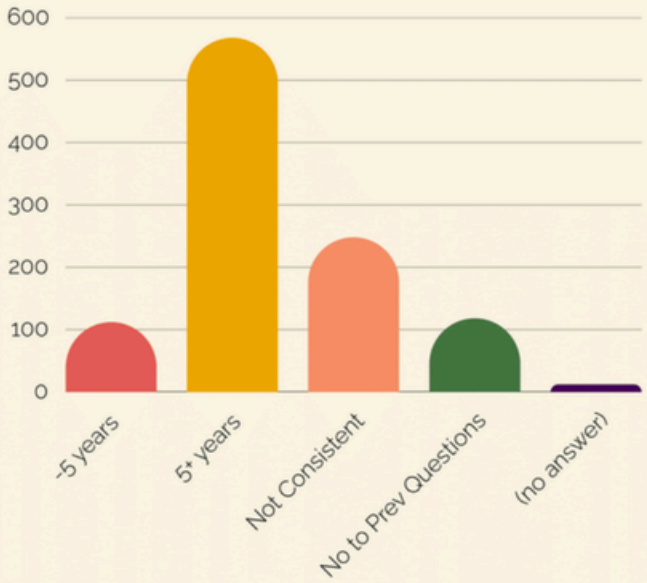


Would you consider yourself to be part of a Dan and Phil *community*?

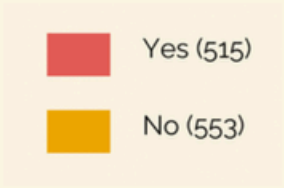
- Yes (883)
- No (183)
- No answer provided (2)

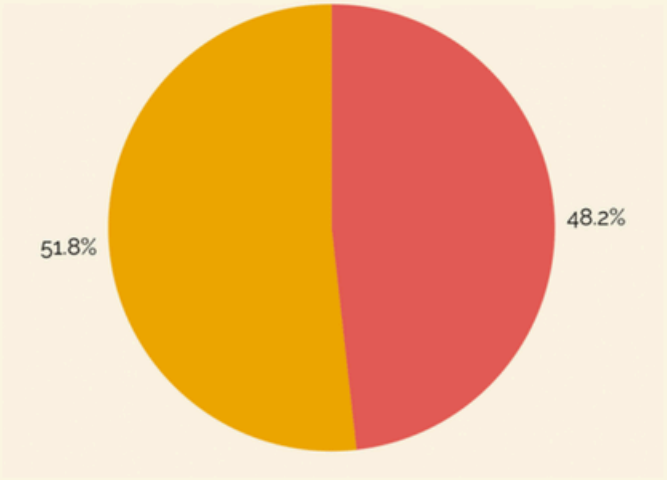
If yes to both, how long have you been involved in a Dan and Phil community?

- Under 5 years (11.4%)
- Over 5 years (53.2%)
- Not consistent in involvement (23.2%)
- Answered no to previous questions (11.1%)
- No answer provided (1.1%)

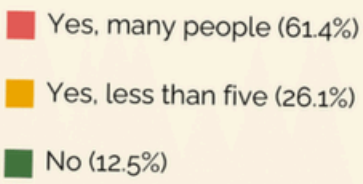


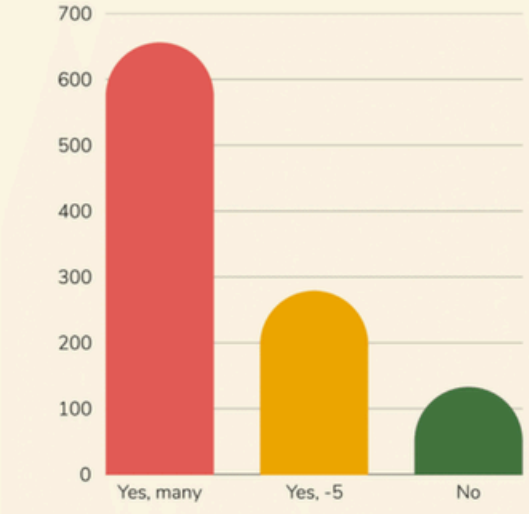
Have you made friends through Dan and Phil on your platform of choice?





Do you recognize anyone by username or name on your Dan and Phil platform of choice?





SOUND BARRIER

TREES - MAUDE LATOUR

PLANTING FLOWERS - TINY HABITS

A WARNING - WALLOWS

A-PUNK - VAMPIRE WEEKEND

BLOOM - THE PAPER KITES

LITTLE LEAGUE - CONAN GRAY

MAGIC CITY - GORILLAZ

MY GIRLFRIEND - TV GIRL

COULDN'T MAKE IT ANY HARDER - SABRINA CARPENTER

ROSE-COLORED BOY - PARAMORE

SAFE GUY - STOVE

RABBIT - HELLO MARY

DALOONA - SAINT LEVANT

WAZIRA - SAINT LEVANT

WAKE ME UP TO DRIVE - BIG THIEF

TRUE RELIGION - SHYGIRL

COME TO TABS' TATS & TIPPLES

tattoo studio

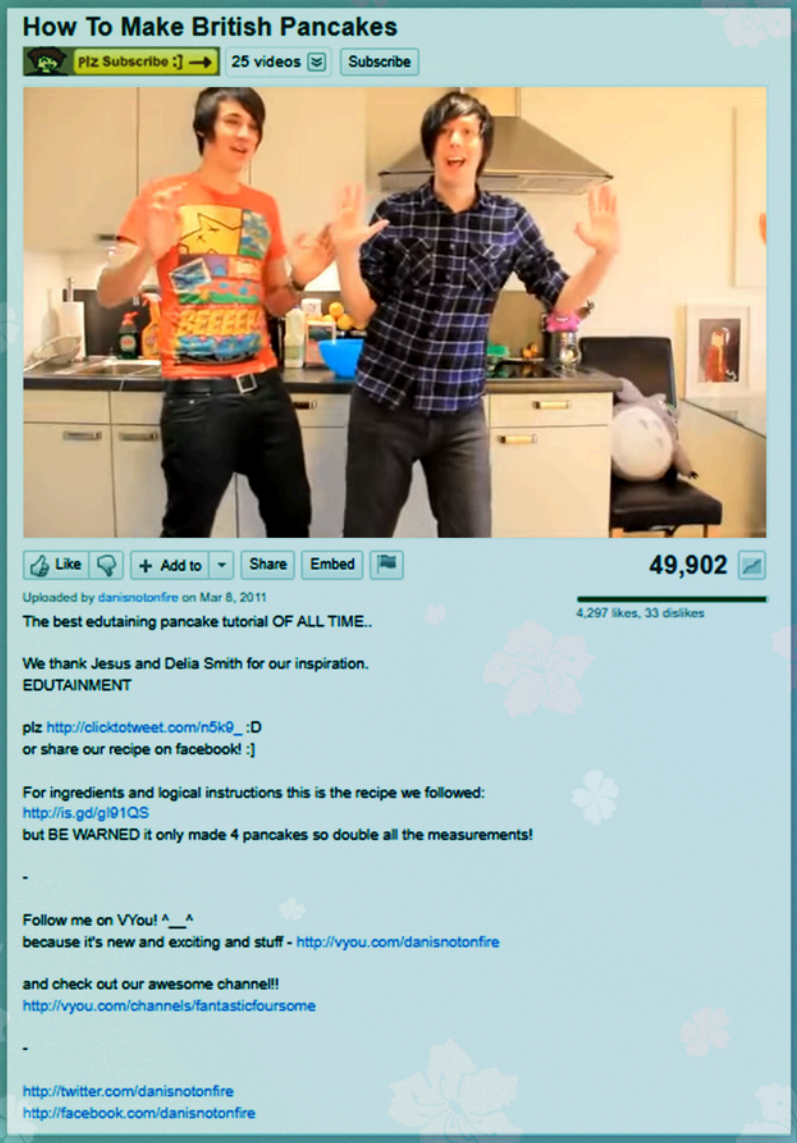
JOIN 1000S OF HAPPY CUSTOMERS:

I ONLY GOT 3 INFECTIONS !

I LOVE MERCURY POISONING !

PHISTORY LESSON!

A glimpse into the archives...By Sol Alvarez



March 2011...

"Nothing is more British than Delia Smith."

Dan and Phil unintentionally set the mood for their yet-to-exist baking videos series with *How To Make British Pancakes*. This video was made to celebrate Pancake Day, which traditionally originated as a day to feast before observing Lent.

This video is iconic in all the ways Dan and Phil couldn't have ever anticipated. They joke about the proper name for whisks before they became a taboo subject for Dan, constantly reference Delia Smith, and subject us to the sight of Dan's Sonic boxers peeking over his uselessly belted jeans. Dan also announces his and Phil's new VYou accounts for the first time, hyping it up as "the next big thing."

In April 2018, Dan changed a handful of his videos to private or unlisted, wanting his channel to better reflect the rebranding he had done in May 2017. This video was included in the purge, staying unlisted until the fateful YouTube update of 2021 automatically set it to private.

Luckily, this video has been preserved in fan reuploads and captures on the Wayback Machine. Although Dan didn't believe it meshed well with the new content he wanted to make, it exists as a fun and lighthearted time capsule of Dan and Phil's vibes in the early 2010s.✲

PHUN PHACTS!

✲ This video was filmed in Phil's first apartment in Manchester, before he and Dan moved into their first shared apartment.

✲ The recipe Dan and Phil used is still publicly available on the BBC Food website.

✲ As this was uploaded months before the AmazingPhil *Christmas cookies* video from December 2011, this is technically the first Dan and Phil "baking" video.

New Message

To

Subject

how do i ignore my country and the rest of the world falling into far right governments???!!!

-everyone in the world right now

Send

i know it seems hard, but there's power in numbers! organize within your friend group, community, or any organization you're a part of. sometimes even just having the conversation can get the ball rolling. no matter how bleak or inevitable the timeline feels, we all have the power to change it!

here at Phangazine we are ashamed to say that we are also guilty of putting ourselves in such a dilemma. our only possible advice is to simply become so unreachable that people have no choice but to assume that you're not available or interested. (or maybe just tell people the truth of how you're feeling...)

New Message

To

Subject

i keep agreeing to things i don't actually want to do. HELP!

-anon

Send

New Message

To

Subject

pls help me cope with uni before i pull a dan howell...

-mavi

Send

our humble advice is to GET OFF TWITTER AND DO YOUR HOMEWORK!!

Reflections of a Phangazine Editor-in-Chief

By: Adonis (@saultransman)

On January 9, 2024, I was scrolling aimlessly on my timeline when I saw a tweet from my now-girlfriend (then-oomf) that listed ideas for a Dan and Phil-based zine. I remember reading the post, looking at the original tweet, and hesitating.

I have mentioned this hesitation often to Coby over this past year together. I was at a weird point in my life, unsure of what I wanted for myself, especially in the Phandom space. Not to mention it was the new year, and I had no idea what I wanted out of 2024 in general. Considering all this, I finally replied to offer my services. Had I simply been too lazy, too stuck in my old ways, I could have scrolled past and we never would have met.

Thankfully, though, I did! I recall being intensely excited about the process and I quickly stepped up to handle the administrative behind-the-scenes work involved. In doing that, I got closer to Coby, who was still operating as the editor-in-chief, and we all know how that ended up!

(In case you were wondering, this isn't about that. If you want to read more about Cobydonis, scroll a few pages ahead to our Phannie Personal article about our relationship! Instead, I want to use this space to gush about this zine and everything we've been able to do so far.)

This was my first time making a zine at all, let alone on the scale of managing submissions, deadlines, and a million other moving parts. As a writer by trade, being on the other side of the publication machine was as exciting as it was daunting. We decided early on that it was important to distance ourselves from the traditional submissions format of frequent rejection. We are very proud to say that we do not turn down works for submission! Fandom is for all, and everyone deserves a chance for their work to be seen and admired.

We've hosted the full spectrum of phannie creatives, from people who have never shared work publicly to seasoned veterans of the community. We've hosted thinkpieces, drabbles, poetry, doodles, crafts, some of the best translation and graphic design this community has to offer, and everything in between! Every contributor has been willing to follow our tight schedules for publication, and I wish I had the space and time to give a personalized thank you to every previous contributor we've ever had.

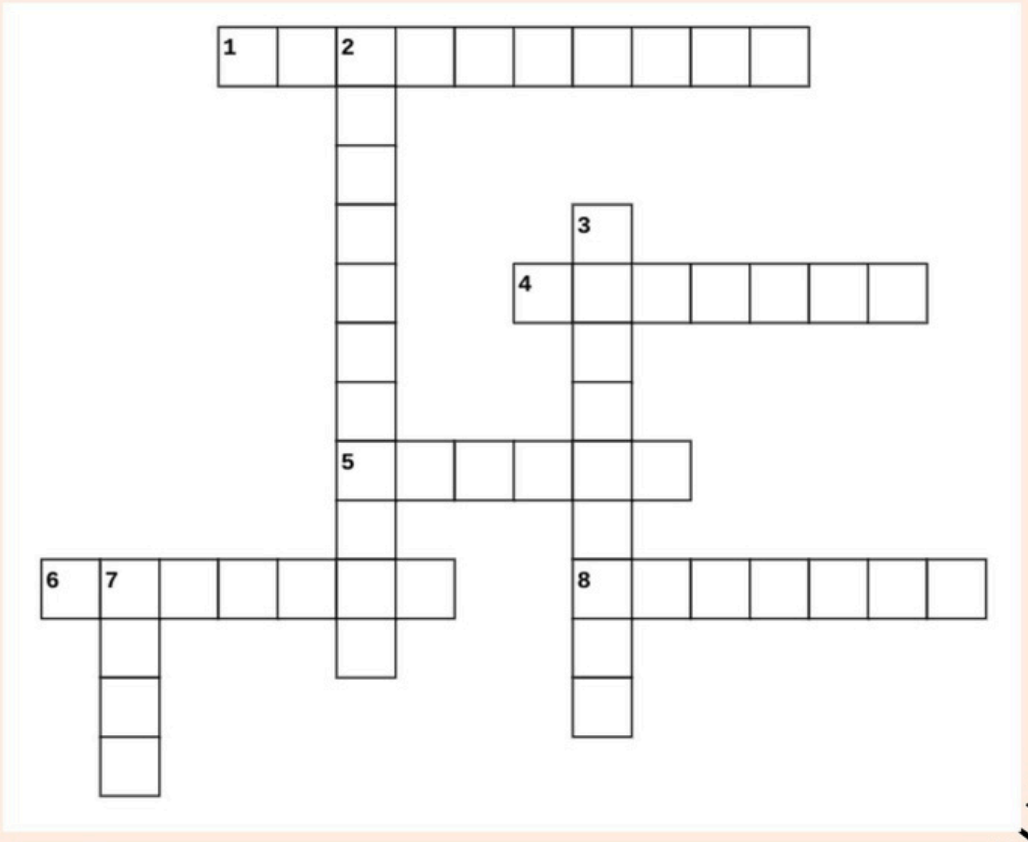
What I do have just enough space for is a small thank you to our wonderful staff. From the start, that group has been small but dedicated. People have come and gone, but Coby and I are more thankful than we can ever show for all the hard work put in so far. We credit contributors at the end of the issue, but I want to take this time to recognize our past and present staff for all they've done here.

Thank you to Mavi (@slitsfordan) for becoming our incredibly hardworking head of translation since we started our Spanish issues, to Matilde (@hotitaliantwink) for always being able to help Coby and me in a pinch, to Sol (@K1CKTHEPJ) for keeping our website up and running and always helping when needed, as well as to Nate (@lesterology), Gabriel (@snokoplazm), Brooke (@lionlester), Atticus (@faginof), Gab (@panickedblurs), Willow (@officaldanhowel), and America (@missingdnp) for their past help in starting the zine and working on our various sections! And of course, thank you to my favorite person in the world and the creator of all this, Coby (@onfjre)!

Finally, thank you to all the readers! Thank you for this amazing opportunity and all of your continued support. I appreciate it more than you know.

phangazine

CROSSWORD



Across

1. What you're reading right now!
4. Another word for vacation (often used in British English).
5. The season after spring.
6. Dan's arch-nemesis that Phil loves.
8. It's in the air during spring!

Down

2. A personal holiday that happens every year on the same day.
3. Beautiful plants associated with spring.
7. This community!

Crafty Corner

How To: Preserve Spring Flowers

By: Mavi (@slitsfordan)

With spring in full bloom, we often find ourselves looking at all the divine flowers and wishing we could keep them that way forever. Although it seems impossible, we're going to teach you how to best preserve them so you can look back on your spring at any time.

You Will Need:

- As many beautiful flowers as you want (or maybe even leaves!)
- Some parchment or tissue paper
- A heavy book
- Some more heavy objects to place on top

1

First, you need to cut the flowers into the size you want to preserve them. You can either keep the stem or cut it completely depending on what you want it to look like.

2

Get your parchment or tissue paper and place your flowers in the desired position on it. Then, get a heavy book and open it around the middle. Some flowers, like roses or sunflowers, are trickier to get right, so don't get upset if they break, it will just give them more personality!

Take the paper with the flowers and place it carefully on top of the book pages, add more paper on top of them to make sure they don't stick, then slowly close the book, checking if they stay in the position you want.

3

Once the book is closed, you may need to place more weight on top of it to assure the flowers get pressed really thin. You can add more books, or anything heavy you may have at hand. Store it in a dry place for at least two weeks.

Once they're done, they'll be thin, dry, and ready to add into a journal, bookmark or any place you think needs a touch of spring.

Now, let's hope Dan and Phil use this guide to preserve their cherry blossom flowers...

Phannie Personal: Making a House a Home

Featuring Coby (@onfjre). Adonis (@saultransman). and more!

One of the most incredible things about the empire Dan and Phil have built are the amount of lives impacted by their videos. By reading this magazine, and by being part of this community, you are connected to so many people who would otherwise be strangers to you. Many of us first entered this space as young teenagers—a turbulent time for all, but especially queer and neurodivergent teenagers. For many of us, discovering who we are went hand-in-hand with joining the Dan and Phil fandom. Throughout my involvement in this space, I have made so many dear and treasured friends from all over the world. I've even been fortunate enough to meet many of them. Some friends I made as a 12-year-old are still my friends today.

We reached out to other members of our community who have made important connections and asked them for their stories. How have you made connections through this space?

This community is a very unique blend of people, and it attracts those with similar values that are interested in building each other up. When I received that kind of positivity, it helped me finish high school strong, I made friends in the community who were interested in helping me apply for college, and now I study my favorite major on a full-ride scholarship, with my sister receiving a full-ride scholarship as well.

As someone who loves Dan and Phil so much, I think there's a fundamental misunderstanding with where this love stems from. It's not the idea that we have a one-on-one relationship, but rather that they built a world for so many people by being the kind, wonderful people that they are. I now have people in my life I love, people who truly understand me, and Dan and Phil connecting us is something worth celebrating.

—America (@missingdnp)

I met Mel through the Phooties groupchat. One day we happened to be the only ones left on a Discord call, and we've been inseparable ever since! We're fortunate enough to have spent time together in person 3 times in one year, despite living 3,444 miles apart. We've seen multiple Dan and Phil shows together in multiple cities and we Facetime any chance we get. They were the first oomf to meet my dogs and see my pink kitchen!

My favourite story to share about them is how we met. On our first call, I was going through something awful. Mel didn't know me, nor did they have any obligation to listen to me cry for hours, but they did. Without Mel, I don't think I could have ever made it through that time in my life. Those who know them know life has not been kind to them, and they inspire me every day because they are the most beautiful and kind person you'll ever meet. They give everything they can without expecting anything in return. They inspire me to have more patience, be kinder, and find joy in everything. If everyone was like Mel, the world would be a much better place.

—Lauren (@megadilflester)

I have met really good friends from dnptwt, and I'm really grateful for it. I spent all of my TIT shows with people I met on here! Court and I made a roadtrip out to our shows in Milwaukee and Chicago. We hotel-hopped almost every night, and even though it was tiring, it was so fun and memorable <3 I got to meet up with oomfs in London as well as see TIT and do other fun stuff (phannie trek). Besides this, I also met up with oomfs to watch the livestream and drove out a few hours just to hangout for the day. I have plans to fly out and meet up with Dani this summer, and I'm just really grateful for the genuine friendships that this place has brought me, including the ones that I haven't been able to meet in person yet! These are all people who have become my genuine friends outside of our interest in Dan and Phil who I update on my life and talk to almost everyday <3

—Nikki (@enrgeticwarrior)

What's your favorite story of you two?

One of my favorite stories is our first kiss. I had to fly about 800 miles to meet her and I didn't get to my hotel until very late at night. She waited at my hotel for me, and then drove me to a convenience store so I could get something to eat. After a few hours, she drove me back to the hotel, where we stood on a street corner, waiting for one of us to be brave enough to make the first move. At one point I said, "Wow, it's such a beautiful night, it would be great if a pretty girl would kiss me right now," and that STILL didn't work. Eventually, I kept reaching up to put my hand on her shoulder and stopping myself, and she grabbed my hand and put it on her shoulder. It was like we were moving in slow motion. We pressed our foreheads together and finally kissed. Everything about the kinds of people we are and how our relationship has formed was perfectly reflected in that moment, and I will never forget it.

—Alexis (@MSLAL3XIS), on her relationship

How did you meet?

Maya and I met on Dan and Phil Twitter! We were mutuals and acquaintances for a while, and I got added to a groupchat with her and other friends in 2021. I can't say that we talked a lot initially, but in 2022 during WAD, most of the Americans in the groupchat coordinated to meet Dan at his Brooklyn show and we stayed in an Airbnb for the weekend. The room had 4 beds and we had 6 people, and it just happened that Maya and I ended up sharing a bed. We started to get closer after that.

—Anna (SYNONYM4SHITTY), on her girlfriend of two years

How did you meet?

🍎: We "met" initially on Twitter, where I pined silently on the timeline over her, then for the first time in person at Dan's book event in Union Chapel...where she met my eyes and became speechless over my looks and wiley charms.
🍊: Neither of us knew the other was going to be there and it was really exciting when I found out! And it's true, I did go speechless when she came up to me... then I said "We're matching!" (we wore the same outfit) It was fate...

What are your favorite things about each other?

🍊: When she wakes up...she smells like warm toast....
🍎: My favourite thing about her is her curiosity.

—Anons, on their relationship

How did you meet?

Coby and I actually met through Phangazine! I had seen her on the timeline (because she was literally so popular) and I wanted to get to know her better because she was really funny and also Jewish, but she felt super unattainable. Then I replied to her tweet asking for people who would be interested in helping bring a phannie zine to life, and we started talking. Because we were coordinating so often, we started DMing daily, then we added each other to our priv Twitter accounts, then she gave me her number. On one of our many staff calls, we realized that we didn't live that far from each other and we could take the train if we wanted to meet. On the day the first issue was scheduled to release, we met in LA under the guise of finishing the issue. I asked her to be my girlfriend that day, something that never would have happened without Phangazine. The springtime is both the Phangazine and Cobydonis anniversaries, so this issue has been very special to both of us.

What is your favorite thing about her?

It's hard to pick just one, but I think my favorite thing about Coby is her creativity. Nothing is impossible in her mind and she never limits herself, and I adore that quality as much as I envy it. She's a true artist and such an inspiring creative. <3

—Adonis (@saultransman), on his relationship with Coby

It's so amazing to read all of these beautiful and heartfelt stories from the community.

By far the most life-changing connection this fandom has given me is Adonis. I can't imagine my life without him now, and it's crazy to think there was a time where we only spoke about Phangazine. He now essentially lives at my house, is friends with all of my friends, is a regular at my work, and is considered part of the family.

He continually amazes me with his patience, intelligence, and seemingly limitless kindness. I've never met someone as hardworking; he's an inspiration. When you read the rest of this issue, know that Adonis has worked tirelessly getting contributions, working with staff, and editing the issue. I'm so lucky to be his girlfriend and it's all thanks to this community.

—Coby (@onfjre), on her relationship with Adonis

We need comic artists !

FROM: Phangazine

TO: Phan artists

Dear artists,

We are always looking for more comic artists to create a small comic strip (or an entire page of comics, depending on demand) for our issues.
From the beginning of this project, we had envisioned a comics section, but have always had a hard time getting artists for the page.
To keep our comics dream alive, don't be afraid to reach out for comics in future issues!

Here are our comics guidelines, if you may be interested:

-Either a small 2-3 panel vertical comic strip (1/3rd of an 8.5" x 11" page) or a full 8.5"x 11" page of comics (number of panels up to you)
Color, style, etc is up to you!

-Limited text (for our Spanish edition)

-Comic's overall themes adhere to the issue's 3-4 themes (given by staff when you indicate interest!)

If you are still unsure of what your comics should or could look like, please don't hesitate to look at our previous issues' pages of comics for a better understanding!

If you are interested, reach out to us through T witter DMs (@phangazine) or our email, phangazine@gmail.com.

We hope to see your work in our future issues!

with love from the team

DATE: Now

VALID FOR: Next edition

ROO

Growth is Acceptance

By Maddie (@arislunchdate)

Having a spring birthday means my life naturally aligns with the changing of seasons. As the icy gray world melts into spring blooms, I begin a new chapter. Each birthday is a reminder of the inescapable: change. On my 14th birthday, I thought I knew everything. At 18, I was free. And at 23, nothing made sense. Suddenly, it felt like I had forgotten all concepts of who I was and who I was supposed to become. The once vibrant fields of life turned into a dark corridor with no direction - I was terrified.

I had a strong sense of self when I was younger. I was passionate, loud, and creative. I spent my days diving headfirst into fandoms, mass-tweeting and consuming videos day in and out, relishing in the comfort it brought. I found belonging within the confines of fan culture. I made friends across states, went to shows, and stayed up until 3am live-tweeting international events. I got tattoos of my interests and copied my faves' mannerisms. I loved every second.

Somewhere along the way, that connection to who I was became muddled. Lost in the college whirlwind, I felt like there was constantly someone I needed to impress. I put my interests to the side one by one, until I wilted like flowers in the fall. But life demanded I reconnect with who I was and who I used to be; to pick up the petals that fell behind. So like I did at 14, I turned to the things that brought me comfort in confusing times. The DanandPhilGames comeback was placed in my path when I needed it most; it was a beacon calling me back home after slipping into uncharted territory.

Reconnecting with YouTube was monumental in my journey to realizing I could grow without abandoning myself. I remember watching the newest pizza mukbang in the summer heat, lost in every sense, and feeling like something had clicked. It started small, but suddenly I was a giddy 14-year-old again poring over fan art and fics, excitedly texting my friends screenshots from the newest phupload. I rejoined the community, now able to talk about midlife crises like I would high school strifes. In the collective joy of Dan and Phil 2.0, I finally realized how much they went through at my age. If they could survive and come back happier than ever, then so could I.

Seeing Dan and Phil proudly embrace themselves inspired me to finally do the same. I queued old playlists and turned inward to see my younger self patiently waiting for her chance to be heard. What grew from that moment on was the happiest, most authentic version of myself I've ever had the privilege of experiencing. Watching Sister Daniel dance in a Halloween baking video or on stage at my TIT show were some of the first times in a near decade that I allowed myself to think, "Maybe straight isn't the label I align with after all." I found queer spaces online, went back to moments in my past, and dived into queer media. I re-watched "Basically, I'm Gay" and "Coming Out to You." I faced my own internalized biphobia and then sat terrified, texting my friends that the label I threw around in high school had stuck. When I opened the door I had closed on my younger self, she embraced me with open arms.

I hope Dan and Phil know I am just one of a million stories in their community of viewers who needed their guidance just as much at 23 as at 14. Having role models who found happiness by completely embracing themselves saved me from the dark corridor I was going down. For so long I thought growing up meant putting versions of myself away for safekeeping, but I was wrong. "Growing up" is living the dreams of your past selves by doing the things they only fantasized about. It's watching fans fly to London for the hometown TIT shows or theming my nails around livestream premieres. It's hosting friends in my living room with a Terrible Influence poster front and center. It's making younger me proud of who I've become. Growth isn't rejection, it's acceptance.

Phangazine is very important to all of us, and we appreciate you spending this time with us on our anniversary!

Phangazine would not have been possible without the constant hard work of our incredible staff and all of the writers, artists, designers, and translators that have volunteered and submitted over the past year to keep our little zine alive! Without you, we couldn't have made it this far!

Thank you to our writers, listed here in the order of their appearance: Coby (@onfjre), Adonis (@saultransman), Sol (@K1CKTHEPJ), Mavi (@slitsfordan), our Phannie Personal contributors, and Maddie (@arislunchdate).

Thank you to our artists, listed in order of appearance: Sage (@leavesthedirt on Tumblr), Axel (@blueartichokee), Inski (@inskabil), Zoe (@alittlestarsick), Kay (@planetarykay), Roo (@wonderstrucktv on Tumblr), and Ice (@b1uebeane).

Thank you to our graphic designers, in no particular order: Alex (@thearcheralexx), Adonis (@saultransman), Coby (@onfjre), Nate (@lesterology), and Sol (@K1CKTHEPJ).

Thank you to our team of Spanish translators, also in no particular order: Isa (@_yoonsmoon), Charlie (@notreallyaroad on Tumblr), Cordelia (@artrovertt), Elias (@elias-the-corvid-art on Tumblr), and Mavi (@slitsfordan).

We also want to thank the reader for our audiobook version, Adonis (@saultransman)!

As in our first issue, we must continue to thank and acknowledge the person who came up with the idea for this zine, Abby (@cryptiddnp), as well as the other active Phandom zine out right now over on Tumblr, Phanzines!

The staff would finally like to highlight Phangazine's editor-in-chief Adonis (@saultransman) for all he does behind the scenes and Coby (@onfjre) for her essential emotional support!

If you would like to be a part of future issues to keep this project going, please check out our website or social media (@phangazine on Instagram, Twitter, and Tumblr) for updates on what we're looking for and how you can get involved. We would love for you to be a part of this community!

Join us back in summer for a new year of promise, prosperity, and Phangazine!